
ForteFide

Installation Guide

Version	1.4.9.2
Platforms	Windows 10/11/Server 2016+ and Ubuntu 20.04+/Debian 10+/RHEL 8+
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Publisher	DenseDefense -- DFW, Texas
Website	densedefense.com

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1. System Requirements

Component	Windows	Linux
OS	Windows 10/11, Server 2016+	Ubuntu 20.04+, Debian 10+, RHEL 8+
Architecture	x86_64	x86_64 (amd64)
RAM	512 MB min (2 GB recommended)	512 MB min (1 GB recommended)
Disk	200 MB + scan data	200 MB + scan data
Runtime	None (self-contained .exe)	None (native ELF binary)
Dependencies	None	libc6 >= 2.28 (standard)
Network	Not required (air-gap ready)	Not required (air-gap ready)
Privileges	Administrator	Root or sudo

2. Windows Installation

Interactive Install

- Download ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_Windows.exe from densedefense.com
- Right-click > Run as Administrator
- Accept the EULA, choose install directory, click Install
- ForteFide starts automatically and opens <http://localhost:5000>

Silent Install

```
ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_Windows.exe /VERYSILENT /SUPPRESSMSGBOXES /NORESTART
```

Running ForteFide

```
cd "C:\Program Files\ForteFide"
.\fortefide.exe
```

Dashboard opens at <http://localhost:5000>

Firewall (Windows)

Port	Direction	Purpose
5000/tcp	Inbound	Dashboard web UI
22/tcp	Outbound	SSH scanning (all targets)
5985/tcp	Outbound	WinRM scanning (Windows targets)

License (Windows)

- Drag and drop .key file onto the license panel in the sidebar
- Or place license.key in C:\ProgramData\ForteFide\
- License is machine-bound via Ed25519 digital signature

Session Persistence

- All scan results saved to encrypted SQLite (AES-256-GCM)
- Browser refresh (F5), close/reopen, or restart preserves all data
- Database location: C:\ProgramData\ForteFide\scans.db

Uninstall (Windows)

```
"C:\Program Files\ForteFide\unins000.exe" /VERYSILENT
```

WARNING

Uninstall removes the license.key from ProgramData. Back up your license file before uninstalling.

3. Linux Installation

Transfer the .deb package

Copy ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_linux.deb to the target system via USB drive, SCP, or any secure transfer method.

```
scp ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_linux.deb user@target:/tmp/
```

Install

```
sudo dpkg -i /tmp/ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_linux.deb
```

The package has no dependencies beyond libc6. If dpkg reports missing dependencies, resolve with:

```
sudo apt-get install -f
```

What happens during installation

- Native ELF binary and templates installed to /opt/fortefide/
- Systemd service (fortefide.service) installed with LimitSTACK=infinity
- CLI launcher installed at /usr/local/bin/fortefide
- Keys directory created at /opt/fortefide/keys/
- Runtime data directory created at /var/lib/fortefide/ (chmod 755)
- Service starts automatically after install

Firewall (Linux)

Port	Direction	Purpose
5000/tcp	Inbound	ForteFide web dashboard
22/tcp	Outbound	SSH to Linux targets
5985/tcp	Outbound	WinRM to Windows targets

UFW (Ubuntu/Debian)

```
sudo ufw allow 5000/tcp
```

firewalld (RHEL/CentOS)

```
sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=5000/tcp --permanent
sudo firewall-cmd --reload
```

License (Linux)

- Drag and drop .key file onto the license panel in the dashboard
- Or use API: base64 license.key | curl -X POST -d @- http://localhost:5000/api/import-license
- License file location after import: /var/lib/fortefide/license.key

Installed File Locations

Path	Contents
/opt/fortefide/fortefide	Main ELF executable (Nuitka-compiled)
/opt/fortefide/templates/	Web dashboard HTML/CSS/JS
/opt/fortefide/keys/	Generated SSH keys and certificates
/var/lib/fortefide/	Runtime data, scan results, license
/var/lib/fortefide/license.key	License file (after import)
/usr/lib/systemd/system/fortefide.service	Systemd service unit
/usr/local/bin/fortefide	CLI launcher

Service Management

```
# Start / stop / restart
sudo systemctl start fortefide
sudo systemctl stop fortefide
sudo systemctl restart fortefide

# Check status and logs
sudo systemctl status fortefide
sudo journalctl -u fortefide -f

# Run interactively (foreground)
sudo /opt/fortefide/fortefide
```

Uninstall (Linux)

Remove (keeps data and license)

```
sudo dpkg --remove fortetide-scanner
```

Purge (removes everything)

```
sudo dpkg --purge fortetide-scanner
```

WARNING

Purging removes /opt/fortetide/, /var/lib/fortetide/, and the systemd service. Back up /var/lib/fortetide/license.key before purging.

4. Accessing the Dashboard

After installation, the dashboard is available at:

http://localhost:5000

On Linux, the dashboard binds to 0.0.0.0:5000 by default, so it is also reachable at http://<server-ip>:5000 from other machines on the network.

5. Authentication Options

ForteFide supports three authentication methods for connecting to target endpoints. Key-based auth is the default and recommended method.

Method	Setup	Recommended For
SSH Key (default)	Step 2 deploys keys automatically	All environments
Certificate	Step 2 deploys certs automatically	High-security / PKI
Password	Enter in Step 3 scan config	Legacy / quick evaluation

When using key or certificate auth, admin credentials are entered once during Step 2 (Prepare). All subsequent scanning and remediation uses the deployed credentials automatically -- no passwords on the wire.

6. Troubleshooting

Windows

- Dashboard not loading: verify fortetide.exe is running. Check fortetide.log in the install directory.
- Port 5000 in use: check netstat -ano | findstr 5000, kill conflicting process
- WinRM targets failing: run enable-winrm-scan.ps1 on the target, verify LocalAccountTokenFilterPolicy = 1

Linux

- Service fails to start: check sudo journalctl -u fortetide -e
- Verify binary exists: ls -la /opt/fortetide/fortetide
- Verify LimitSTACK=infinity in fortetide.service (required for Nuitka ELF)
- Port 5000 in use: check sudo ss -tlnp | grep 5000
- Browser doesn't open: access http://localhost:5000 manually (auto-open requires desktop session)

Reinstall

Windows

```
"C:\Program Files\ForteFide\unins000.exe" /VERYSILENT
ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_Windows.exe /VERYSILENT
```

Linux

```
sudo dpkg --purge fortetide-scanner
sudo dpkg -i ForteFide_Setup_1.4.9.2_linux.deb
```